

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please amend the following paragraph on page 4, lines 7-15 as follows:*

On the other hand, in an attempt to apply biotechnology to other field ~~filed~~, there exist investigations in which nanoparticles having uniform size in the order of nano are intended to be produced through rendering the incorporation of a metal or a metal compound into apoferritin that is a protein having a function to hold a metal compound. Investigations have been carried out to so that any of various kinds of metals or metal compounds are introduced into apoferritin in compliance with the use of the nanoparticle.

*Please amend the following paragraph on page 4, line 1 to page 5, line 21 as follows:*

Fig. 1 is a schematic view illustrating the structure of apoferritin. As shown in Fig. 1, apoferritin 1 is a spherical protein having the molecular weight of about 460,000 with 24 monomer subunits, which are formed from a single polypeptide chain, being assembled via noncovalent bonds, having the diameter of about 12 ~~[[mm]]~~ nm, and exhibits higher thermostability and pH stability in comparison with general proteins. There is a cavity-like holding part 4 having the diameter of about 6 nm in the center of apoferritin 1, and the outside and the holding part 4 are connected via a channel 3. For example, when a bivalent iron ion is incorporated into apoferritin 1, the iron ion enters from the channel 3, and reaches to the holding part 4 after being oxidized in a place which is present within a part of the subunits and is referred to as a ferrooxidase center (iron oxidation active center). The iron ion is thereafter concentrated in a negative charge region on the inner surface of the holding part 4. Then, the iron atoms assemble by 3000 to 4000, and held in the holding part 4 in the form of a ferrihalide ( $5\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) crystal. Particle size of the nanoparticle, which was held in the holding part 4,

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comprising the metal atom is nearly equal to the diameter of the holding part 4, which is about 6 nm.